

Persons With Disabilities (PWD) Information

Here is a list of benefits and resources that may be available to you.

Community and agency resources and support for persons with Disabilities:

You can go online at this website: <http://www.pwd-online.gc.ca/> for the Government Of Canada access to services and information for persons with disabilities. Another site found within this Government site is the: Benefits Finder found at <http://www.canadabenefits.gc.ca>.

Employment Programs:

Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation Online Resource at :

http://www.gov.bc.ca/meia/online_resource/ .

The Online Resource (OLR) is a one-stop source for all BCEA policy, procedures and program information for eligibility for ministry employment and assistance programs. Check out the B.C. Government Home Page For any information related to the B.C. Government.

The Employment Program of British Columbia provides employment services and supports to all unemployed British Columbians, including people who experience multiple barriers to employment.

Services are available to those who have a goal of employment and who want and are able to participate in employment services, including, but not limited to:

- persons with mental health or physical challenges;
- persons with substance abuse problems;
- persons who have problems with basic literacy or numeracy;
- persons of any age group where high unemployment exists; and
- homeless persons.

Check out Work BC at:

http://www.gov.bc.ca/meia/online_resource/

GT Hiring Solutions under contract with the BC Government:

46151 Yale Road Chilliwack, B.C.

604-795-9675 call for hours.

You can also contact your own Ministry of Income Assistance Office.

Earnings Exemption:

Persons with Disabilities are eligible for an exemption of \$ 9,600.00 per year. That is you may earn \$ 9,600.00 before income is deducted from your cheques. For complete information regarding earning exemptions check the Government webpage:

http://www.eia.gov.bc.ca/factsheets/2006/Earnings_Exemption.htm

If you are working you must declare all income on your stub each month. Proof of income must also be submitted. PWD clients that have earnings that exceed Ministry rates will still retain an open file for continued Medical services only.

Medical Services Only:

Clients who are working and earning over the Ministry rates, or if receiving Federal Income Support such as Canada Pension Plan or Old Age Security are eligible to retain MEIA medical coverage for 12 months. This includes MSP premiums, dental,optical,prescriptions,medical supplies and equipment, etc. If you require medical supplies or equipment you must contact a worker for prior approval.

Prescriptions :

Pharmacare covers everyone receiving Disability Assistance. Most prescriptions can be obtained at no charge by presenting your Care Card to the pharmacist. If Pharmacare does not cover a prescription the Ministry will not pay for it. Your physician may be able to prescribe an alternate medication or apply for exception by contacting Pharmacare directly. Do not contact a worker.

Optical Services:

The Ministry covers routine eye examinations once every two years. Frames and lenses are provided once every three years. New lenses may be provided within 3 years when an optometrist confirms a significant change in prescription. To obtain this benefit, present your Care Card to your optical supplier. There is no need to contact a worker.

Dental Services: (Including Dentures)

If further dental work is needed, your dentist may submit an Application to Exceed Annual Limit directly to the Health Assistance branch. The dentist have these forms in their office. There is no need to contact a worker. If you pay for any dental services yourself you will not be reimbursed.

Medical Transportation:

Emergency ambulance service is covered by MSP. If you do receive a bill for an ambulance service while you are on assistance, submit the bill to a Ministry Office (MEIA). Disability assistance does not provide any extra funding to attend routine doctor appointments, but you may be eligible for transportation benefits if you are unable to find transport to your appointments either by car or bus for medical reasons and you have an extraordinary number of medical appointments. Your Doctor must complete a form which is available at the Ministry office.

Special Transportation Subsidy (STS):

The Special Transportation Subsidy (STS) is provided to recipients of disability assistance who live in areas where the Buss program is available, but are unable to use public transportation due to their disability of because it would make their disability worse.

To qualify for the STS, people must:

- be in receipt of disability assistance under the Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Act;
- reside in an area where the Bus Pass program is available; and
- provide certification from a physician verifying: that they are unable to use the Bus Pass program or any other form of subsidized public transportation service (such as handyDART and Taxi Savers) due to their disability, or, that their disability would be aggravated by using public transportation; and the alternative form of transportation required to accommodate the disability (examples: operating a personal vehicle or paying others for transportation).

Monthly Nutritional Supplement:

PWD clients with severe medical conditions causing a chronic, progressive deterioration of health with symptoms of wasting may wish to apply for this supplement to assist with costs of dietary items, vitamins and bottled water. The Monthly Nutritional Supplement (MNS) of up to \$225 monthly is only available to persons in receipt of disability assistance (support & shelter) who meet the specific medical criteria. You must contact a worker to request the required forms. Your Doctor must complete the forms and the original completed form must be returned to the office. The form is then sent to the Health Assistance Branch for review. You will receive a letter in writing advising you if you are approved.

Diet Supplement:

Under the BC Employment and Assistance Program, diet assistance can be provided to persons facing the expense of a special diet as a result of a specific medical condition. To apply for or continue receiving diet assistance, please be aware of the following criteria:

Diet assistance is as follows:

- * \$ 10 per month for a person who requires a restricted sodium diet as a result of a specific medical condition;
- * \$ 35 per month for a person who has diabetes;
- * \$ 30 per month for a person who requires kidney dialysis if the person is not eligible under the service provided by the Ministry of Health Services.
- * \$ 40 per month for a person who requires a high protein diet and has any of the following:
 - * Cancer requiring nutritional support during radiation, chemotherapy, surgical cancer therapy and ongoing treatment.
 - * Chronic inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn's and ulcerative colitis
 - * HIV/AIDS, chronic bacterial infection and tuberculosis
 - * Hyperthyroidism, osteoporosis
 - * Hepatitis B or C
- * \$ 40 per month for a person who requires a gluten-free diet as a result of a specific medical condition;
- * \$ 40 per month for a person who has dysphagia as a result of a specific medical condition;
- * \$ 50 per month for a person who has cystic fibrosis.

To apply for diet assistance please obtain confirmation from your doctor or a registered dietician/nutritionist that outlines:

- * your specific condition
- * what type of diet you need
- * how it relates to your medical condition
- * how long it is needed

Submit a written prescription, & diagnosis from your doctor, including the expected duration of need, type of product required & amount required per day. If the product is needed for more than 3 months, you must submit a nutritional assessment by a dietician or nutritionist. All requests for health benefits must be pre-approved. Payment will not be approved for goods or services received without prior authorization.

Security Deposits:

Security deposits can only be issued in tenancy situations that are covered by the Residential Tenancy Act :

If you are renting accommodation, you may be eligible for this assistance to cover the cost of your security deposit. These are repayable benefits. Security deposits are recovered from income assistance cheques at \$20 per month. The security deposit deduction occurs on the second cheque after the security deposit is issued.

Emergency Moving Benefit:

If you are forced to move because the accommodation you are renting has been sold or condemned, or a move to a new place would significantly reduce your expenses, you may receive money to pay your moving expenses.

Homeowner Grant Program:

This program offers a tax reduction for homeowners. An additional grant may be available for seniors, persons with disabilities (PWD) or others who meet the eligibility criteria under the Homeowner Grant Qualifications. Also enquire about homeowner tax reductions at your local property tax office. For more information see :

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/taxes/property-taxes/annual-property-tax/reduce/home-owner-grant>

Property Tax Deferral Program:

Homeowners who are 60 years of age or older, widowed or qualifying persons with disabilities, may defer the property taxes on their home until they no longer own it or the property is no longer the principle residence. For more information see:

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/taxes/property-taxes/annual-property-tax/pay/defer-taxes>

or Phone: 250-356-8121 (Victoria) 1-800-663-7867 (Toll-free)

If you call toll-free, ask to be transferred to 250-356-8121. Email: TaxDeferment@gov.bc.ca

BC Parks:

Discounts on camp and park fees for Persons with Disabilities, contact your worker to request a Release of information form.

a. Obtain, from your caseworker, a current calendar year Release of Information form issued by the BC Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation.

b. Upon arrival at the campground, show the campground operator the ORIGINAL approved form And a second piece of identification.

full info here:

<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/fees/disability.html>

Please note: This discount does not apply to group camping, group picnicking, electrical hookups, cabins, yurts, backcountry and marine fees or reservation charges.

BC Fishing License:

You may qualify for a discounted yearly fishing license through Ministry of Environment. You will need a Release of Information from you worker. You can get the form from this government site:

http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/fish/licences/docs/disabled_angling_app.pdf

Service BC

Suite 1 - 45467 Yale Road West

Chilliwack B.C. V2R 3Z8

Tel: 604-795-8415

Fax: 604-795-8408

Office Hours:

Monday to Friday, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

Completed applications should be presented to a Service BC office. To locate a Service BC office, refer to the website at <http://www.servicebc.gov.bc.ca/locations/index.html>

B.C. Ferries:

Must be a resident of B.C. and have a permanent disability, reduced fares are available. Must have a BC Ferries Disabled Status I.D. card. Full information on the BC Ferries website:

Download the Disabled Status Identification Application and submit it to BC Ferries at:

http://www.bcferries.com/travel_planning/disabilities.html

Treo Tolling Exemptions:

There are certain vehicles and drivers who are exempt from being charged the toll to cross the new Port Mann Bridge.

What are the criteria for exemption?

In order for people with disabilities to be eligible for the toll exemption, they must:

- Be a BC resident
- Own or lease the exempt vehicle
- Install a TReO decal on the exempt vehicle
- Provide documentation for one of the following: ?Persons with Disabilities (PWD) designation from the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation

Have been approved for and are currently receiving Canada Pension Plan Disability Benefit

A stamped physician's certification of permanent disability

Full information on the Treo Website here: <https://www.treo.ca/tolls-and-fees/tolling-exemptions/>
<https://www.treo.ca/media/51174/treo-persons-with-disabilities-form.pdf>

Flight Discount:

On some airlines an attendant may accompany you for half price. Ask the airline you are using for details. ie: Air Canada - <http://www.aircanada.com/en/travelinfo/before/specialneeds/attendant.html>

Parking Permits for Persons With Disabilities:

Call Social Planning and Research Council of B.C. For parking permit inquiries:

Telephone: 604-718-7744

Fax: 604-736-8697

Email: permits@sparc.bc.ca

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Handy Dart:

HandyDart is a shared ride public transit service. It uses specially equipped vehicles designed to carry passengers with physical or cognitive disabilities who are unable to use public transit without assistance. see :

<http://www.translink.ca/en/Rider-Guide/Accessible-Transit/HandyDART.aspx>

For full info and download application forms.

HandyPass and Taxi Saver:

If you are a resident with special needs, you may be eligible for a HandyCard. Do you have a permanent physical, sensory or cognitive disability and require assistance to use conventional public transit? HandyCard fare discounts and TaxiSaver coupons can help keep you connected.

If you live within the TransLink service area, HandyCard allows travel at Concession fare prices on the bus, SkyTrain, SeaBus and West Coast Express, and if someone needs to travel with you for assistance, they can travel for free.

Appication and more information can be found here:

<http://www.translink.ca/en/Rider-Guide/Accessible-Transit/HandyCard.aspx>

Greyhound and Via Rail:

You will find full information for Greyhound at their website here:

<https://www.greyhound.ca/en/ticketsandtravel/disabledtravelers.aspx>

You will find full information for Via Rail at their website here:

<http://www.viarail.ca/en/travel-info/special-needs/accessibility>

Recreation/Communtiy Centers and Programs:

The Chilliwack Landing Recreation Centre In Chilliwack located at:
#1-9145 Corbould St.

Chilliwack, BC Tel: 604-793-SWIM (7946)

offers free membership to all low income persons in Chilliwack. Obtain the form from your worker and bring it to the Leisure Centre.

Chilliwack Library:

Has a program called LIBRARY FOR YOU

Can't get to the library? We come to you! FVRL's Library For You service provides materials to people who are unable to visit the library due to illness, age, or disability. Full information here:

http://www.fvrl.bc.ca/outreach_services.php

Phone (604) 792-1941

Additional Information can be found at :

This local Chilliwack website has some links as well:

<http://www.chilliwackspace.com>

including:

a countdown clock and information as to when the next PWD Cheque will be issued.

Please note the information as described in this document is for informational purposes only and is subject to change or may have errors. The author of this document is not responsible for any results of the information obtained here.

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